

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 00359 291751Z

62  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EA-07 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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R 291600Z JAN 76  
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7665  
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O.: 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, CM  
SUBJ: RELUCTANT SOVIET DIPLOMATIC DEAN-DESIGNATE

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET AMBASSADOR MALYCHEV CONVENED INFORMAL MEETING OF SEVEN MEMBERS YAOUNDE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, EXCLUDING US AND PRC AMBASSADORS AMONG OTHERS, TO INFORM THEM HE COULD NOT BECOME DEAN OR, IF HE DID, HE COULD NOT GIVE PARTIES ON BEHALF OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS. END SUMMARY.

2. DEPARTURE OF LAST DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR SADA (NOW POSTED TO WARSAW), WAS DELAYED UNTIL AFTER CORPS' NEW YEAR'S WISHES TO PRESIDENT AHIDJO, APPARENTLY ON LATTER'S ORDERS, TO PREVENT SOVIET AMBASSADOR MALYCHEV FROM SPEAKING FOR CORPS ON THAT OCCASION. VICE DEAN, LIBERIAN AMBASSADOR JOHNSON, HAS BEEN IN MONROVIA FOR TWO MONTHS AND SCUTTLEBUT HAS IT HE NOT PLANNING TO RETURN EXCEPT FOR FAREWELLS.

3. MAYCHEV GAVE FAREWELL PARTY FOR DEPARTING DEAN, TO WHICH HE DID NOT REPEAT NOT INVITE SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR. VARIOUS COLLEAGUES REMONSTRATED WITH MALYCHEV, WHOSE EXCUSE WAS THAT HE WAS ONLY ACTING VICE DEAN AND THEREFORE GIVING PARTY IN CAPACITY AS SOVIET AMBASSADOR. HE ALSO FAILED TO SOLICIT CONTRIBUTION FOR CUSTOMARY FAREWELL PRESENT FROM SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR. I TOLD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 YAOUND 00359 291751Z

FONMIN KEUTCHA ABOUT INCIDENT, WHO HAD NOT HEARD ABOUT IT FROM

OTHER SOURCES AND CONSIDERED SOVIET BEHAVIOR VERY BAD AND INCORRECT.

4. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR CHATILLON AT RECENT SOCIAL GATHERING ASKED MALYCHEV WHETHER HE, AS ACTING DEAN, WAS PLANNING TO CONVENE CORPS TO DISCUSS COMMON PROBLEMS. MALYPOEV SAID HE SAW NO NEED FOR THIS, BUT TWO DAYS LATER INVITED CANADIAN AND SIX OTHERS TO MEETING AT SOVIET EMBASSY, HELD JANUARY 28. THOSE INVITED WERE AMBASSADORS OF ZAIRE, NETHERLANDS, ITALY, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, BELGIUM, GREECE, AND CANADIAN WHO IS ONLY ONE INVITED TO HAVE PRESENTED LETTERS OF CREDENCE LATER THAN MYSELF.

5. ACCORDING TO BELGIAN AMBASSADOR BRANCART, MALYCHEV OPENED MEETING BY TELLING COLLEAGUES THAT, HAVING GIVEN THE MATTER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION, HE HAD CONCLUDED HE COULD NOT ACCEPT DEANSHIP. "WE KNOW WHAT WE CAN DO AND WHAT WE CANNOT DO. I CANNOT BE DEAN." BRANCART INTERPRETED THIS TO MEAN THAT MALYCHEV HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO BECOME DEAN - UNLESS THE CORPS WOULD LET HIM GET AWAY WITH NOT REPEAT NOT GIVING FAREWELL AND OTHER PARTIES ON ITS BEHALF. THE DEAR COLLEAGUES REMONSTRATED WITH HIM. ONE OF THEM SUGGESTED HE COULD SPEAK FOR THE CORPS TO GURC ON QUESTIONS LIKE SECURITY OF EMBASSIES, BUT MALYCHEV SAID HE CONSIDERED THOSE "PERSONAL", PRESUMABLY MEANING EMBASSY-TO-GOVERNMENT RATHER THAN CORPS-TO GURC MATTERS. HE ASKED FOR THEIR COMPREHENSION AND LEFT MATTERS IN THE POSITION "DEAN YEA, BUT PARTIES NO." WHEN THE BELGIAN ASKED WHETHER HE PLANNED TO INFORM PROTOCOL IN MINFONAFF, HE SAID "NO, NOT AT THE PRESENT TIME."

6. AT THE BEGINNING OF MEETING, WESTERN AMBASSADORS TOLD SOVIET THAT SELECTIVE INVITATIONS WERE IMPROPER. MAYCHEV PLEADED SENIORITY AS CRITERION, AND WHEN TOLD OF CANADIAN'S JUNIORITY - CHATILLON IS IN FACT JUNIOR MOST RESIDENT AMBASSADOR - HE JOKED THAT CANADIAN COULD REPRESENT GREAT NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT.

7. FOR WARSAW: STORY WILL AMUSE AMBASSADOR SADA, A GOOD DIPLOMAT, WHENHE CALLS ON AMBASSADOR DAVIS.

8. FOR MONROVIA. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT LIBERIAN AMBASSADOR PETER A. JOHNSON'S PLANS.  
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PAGE 03 YAOUND 00359 291751Z

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